tion, so as to make provision for the quartering of special (punitive) police in disturbed areas, should a case of this kind recur. The Military had to be called out in connection with the riot at Trivandrum and His Highness' Government considered it necessary later on to direct that the Pangode Battalion should be recruited at once to its full sanctioned strength of 500. This has been done, with the result that the expenditure on the Military department stands as follows:—

Actuals of 1082	....	....	Rs. 2,04,673.
Actuals of 1083	....	....	Rs. 2,17,370.
Budget provision for 1084	....	....	Rs. 2,93,700.

Civil and Criminal Justice.

19. Criminal Justice.—As it was found that the Assistant Excise Commissioner at Alleppey, who was also the First Class Magistrate there, was unable, on account of his other multifarious duties, to devote adequate time to his magisterial work, His Highness' Government, on the representation of the High Court, created a separate First Class Magistrate's Court for the Alleppey town, the existing Second Class Magistrate's Court at the place being abolished. Again, as it was found that the revenue and devaswom duties of the Quilon Tahsildar were enough to occupy his whole attention and that that officer was unable to spare adequate time for his magisterial work, a Stationary Magistrate was located at Quilon, with first class powers, and with jurisdiction over the whole taluk, the Quilon Tahsildar being relieved of his magisterial duties and the Third Class Magistrate's Court at Paravur (in the Quilon taluk) being abolished. The state of crime generally and the working of the Criminal Courts showed no changes worth mentioning.

20. Civil Justice.—The following changes, sanctioned at the end of the previous year, were given effect to during the year under review, viz., the appointment of a Second Judge for the Quilon District Court as a temporary measure for one year, the permanent location of one of the itinerant Munsiffs' Courts as a regular Court at Chengannur with defined territorial jurisdiction, the permanent location of the other itinerant Munsiff's Court as an additional one at Quilon, the opening of a Munsiff's Court at Kanjirapalli by investing the local Magistrate with the powers of a Munsiff and the appointment of a separate Magistrate-Munsiff at Shencottah in supersession of the arrangement under which the local Tahsildar was exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction in addition to his revenue and other functions. The volume of fresh litigation—original and appellate—which came in during 1083 was practically the same as in the previous year and the arrears showed no signs of diminution. The number of original suits of more than two years' duration in the District Courts rose from 25 to 51 and that of appeals of similar duration from one to 8. The congestion of work was most marked in the Alleppey Court and steps have been taken since the close of the year to appoint two Additional Judges temporarily to this Court to clear off the arrears. His Highness' Government anticipate that, when the Civil Courts' Bill is passed into law, there would be a marked decline in the volume of original work coming into the District Courts. Under the Bill, the original powers of Munsiffs would rise from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 and their small cause powers from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. The appellate powers of District Courts would rise from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. As soon as the Bill is

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passed into law, action would be taken to reorganise the Civil Judicial department so as to fit in with the altered conditions.

Jails.

21. On account of the abolition of the District Jails at Quilon and Alleppey, there was some increase in the number of prisoners admitted into the Central Prison. The administration of the latter continued satisfactory. The earnings from jail manufactures amounted to Rs. 9,700, against Rs. 10,871 in the previous year. His Highness' Government feel that there is room for the development of jail manufactures. Improved looms were supplied during the year and new presses and printing accessories also sanctioned.

Registration.

22. Eight new sub-registry offices were opened during the year; the number of such offices at the close of the year was 59. The total number of documents presented for registration rose by 6 per cent and 99 per cent of the documents were registered on the day of presentation. The receipts of the department amounted to Rs. 3,70,122 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,12,350. The percentage of expenditure to gross income was 30, being the lowest on record.

Forests.

23. Forest reserves and unreserved lands.—Twelve new tracts, with an aggregate area of 34 square miles, were proposed for reservation during the year. Six reserves, comprising a total area of 11 square miles, were finally gazetted under Section 18 of the Regulation. The forests in the Cardamom district continued to be under the control of the Superintendent and District Magistrate, Cardamom Hills. The question of transferring these forests from the Cardamom department and placing them under the control of the Conservator of Forests, engaged the consideration of His Highness' Government during the year. It has been since resolved to transfer these forests to the Conservator. The total area of the reserved forests was 2,323 square miles, and that of reserved lands 139 square miles, against 2,305 square miles and 124 square miles respectively on the last day of 1082. The increase in the area of forest reserves was not due to any departure from the policy of restricting the further reservation of timber forests, resolved upon by His Highness' Government in July 1907. The increase was due chiefly to the final notification, under Section 18, of tracts in regard to which action had been already taken, and partly also to the inclusion in the reserves of a few abandoned coffee estates which had been sold for arrears of tax and bought in by Government. Of the 12 new tracts notified for reservation during the year, 8 are intended for fuel and fodder purposes. The forest policy of Government received further consideration during the year and it was decided that forest areas once reserved should not be cancelled except for very cogent reasons, or thrown open to cultivation, and that the reservation of unproductive land and the re-stocking of such land with trees would be difficult and impracticable.

24. Forest Settlement.—The work of forest settlement was attended to by the Division Peishkars. Including the three reserves which were pending settle-

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